

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 14 September 2011

**Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on
Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre (EE&CC)**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 24 August 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1** Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre was inspected in June 2011. The centre was inspected by HMIE as part of the pilot inspection programme on behalf of HMIE and the Care Commission. The inspection team focussed on the centre's capacity to improve. They used the quality indicators from Child at the Centre used in all previous inspections to evaluate the centre's work and to provide information on how the centre could improve. They also took account of the context and nature of the centre and children's needs. The inspectors engaged staff in professional dialogue throughout the inspection. Inspectors focussed on the quality of children's experiences and outcomes, and the success of the centre in improving the quality of education. Inspectors reported six-point scale evaluations of five quality indicators.

- 2.2** The opening discussion at the start of the inspection provided the head of centre with the opportunity to discuss the impact of the centres self-evaluation in improving its work. The link Quality Improvement Officer also took part in this discussion. The key improvements the nursery was making were described by answering three key questions:

How well do children learn and achieve?

How well does the pre-school centre to support children to develop and learn?

How well does the centre improve the quality of its work?

- 2.3** Responses to questionnaires issued to all parents and staff were analysed. The inspection report is available at.
<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/> and a copy is attached as appendix 1.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1.1** Members will note that HM Inspectors found the following key strengths:

- Confident, well-behaved and motivated children who enjoy high quality learning experiences.
- Partnerships with parents, support agencies and wider community to meet learning needs and broaden children's experiences.

- Exciting and stimulating outdoor learning environment which supports learning across the curriculum.
- Very effective transition programme which supports progression in learning across the early level.
- Very effective use of self-evaluation and commitment of all staff to continuous improvement.
- Inspirational and outstanding leadership for learning of the head of centre.

3.2 Members will note that in relation to the five indicators of quality all five were 'excellent'. This is an outstanding achievement and it is understood that Brucehill EE&CC is only the second nursery in Scotland to achieve five 'excellent' grades.

3.3 How well do children learn and achieve?

The inspectors looked at particular aspects of the centre's recent work, including literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and technology across learning and outdoor learning. As a result they were confident that the children learned and achieved extremely well. The children were making excellent progress in early language. Their listening and talking skills were also very well developed. They also found that children had a very good grasp of early mathematics. The children were developing very effective skills in using literacy and numeracy across their play. In recognition, the centre had received a national award for children's achievements in literacy and numeracy. Almost all children were becoming increasingly skilled in using technology during play, such as the interactive whiteboard and programmable toys.

3.4 How well does the centre support children to develop and learn?

The inspectors found that the nursery supported children to develop and learn extremely well. Children were highly motivated and engaged by their experiences. Across the playrooms, staff interacted very skilfully with children to support and extend their learning. Staff provided an exciting and stimulating environment with a range of activities and resources which met children's needs. The outdoor area provided a rich, interesting environment. The nursery was embracing curriculum for excellence and was using exciting and innovative approaches to help children make excellent progress. Staff worked very well with parents and parents reported that they were highly satisfied with all aspects of the nursery. They commended the head of centre for her work with the local primary staff to develop a common understanding of the early level curriculum and also to share the successful methodology and approaches used in the nursery.

3.5 How well does the centre improve the quality of its work?

The inspectors found a staff team who were highly committed to providing the highest quality provision. The head of centre provided inspirational leadership for learning and motivated all staff to provide excellent experiences for children.

3.6 The inspector discussed with staff and the education authority how the nursery could continue to improve. The following was agreed:

- Continue to build on the very effective practice and high quality experiences for all learners.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 An improvement plan will be prepared to take forward the recommendation made in this report.

7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 Screening for equalities impact indicates no significant issues.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1 The HMIE report provides evidence of the high quality service provided to children and families using the centre. This is in line with the corporate priority to provide fit for purpose services.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 This is an outstanding report highlighting the very high quality service provided by the centre. HM Inspectors are confident that the centre's self-evaluation processes were leading to improvements. As a result, they will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The local authority will inform parents about the centre's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its centre.

- 9.2 The committee is invited:

- (a) to note the contents of this report;
- (b) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 24 August 2011; and
- (c) given that the Head of Centre will be on holiday on 14 September and unable to attend Committee, to invite her to make a presentation on the work of the centre to the next meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in November 2011.

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Appendix: Copy of HMIE report on Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre

Ward Affected: Ward 3